

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66602

DRAFTED BY: NEA:TTOMKINS

APPROVED BY: NEA:TTOMPKINS

S/S-O:PJOHNSON

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P 081808Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079179

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER, USDEL PREPCON

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI,
TEHRAN, APRIL 7, FROM KABUL RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2141

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAITBC PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH SUMMONED ME EVENING
APRIL 7 TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SAID HE WISHED TO INFORM
ME THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED BY THE AFGHAN CHARGE' IN
ISLAMABAD THAT THE PAKISTANIS HAD REFUSED TO SUPPLY ANY
RAILROAD CARS FOR THE MOVEMENT OF AFGHAN GOODS FROM KARACHI.
HE SAID THAT THIS ACTION EFFECTIVELY CUTS OFF THE TRANSIT OF
GOODS DESTINED FOR AFGHANISTAN THROUGH PAKISTAN AND THAT
AFGHANISTAN WILL HAVE TO USE THE MORE EXPENSIVE AND LENGTHIER
IRANIAN ROUTE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS, HE SAID THAT
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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL WOULD BE DISCUSSING

THIS MATTER IMMEDIATELY WITH THE PAKISTANI CHARGE IN KABUL. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOP GAVE NO REASON FOR THIS ACTION.

2. ABDULLAH ALSO SAID THAT THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES HAD RECENTLY APPREHENDED 24 PAKISTANI GUERRILLAS WHO HAD INFILTRATED AFGHANISTAN WITH THE AIM OF PLANTING BOMBS AND STIRRING UP TROUBLE. HE ADDED THAT ADDITIONAL BALUCHI REFUGEES HAD RECENTLY CROSSED THE BORDER INTO AFGHANISTAN. FINALLY, HE REFERRED TO WHAT HE TERMED INCREASINGLY VITRIOLIC PAKISTANI RADIO PROPAGANDA DIRECTED AGAINST PRESIDENT DAOUD AND HIS BROTHER NAIM.

3. ABDULLAH WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE LIFTING OF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO HAD GIVEN BHUTTO THE CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE TO UNDERTAKE THESE ACTIONS AGAINST AFGHANISTAN.

4. I TOLD ABDULLAH THAT I WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED TO RECEIVE THIS REPORT OF THE STOPPAGE OF AFGHAN TRANSIT GOODS. I STRESSED THAT THE U.S. DEPLORES ANY ESCALATION OF ANY KIND OF THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. WITH RESPECT TO LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO, DRAWING ON STATE 77284 I REPEATED THAT OUR TIMING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH RECENT EVENTS IN THE NWFP, THAT OUR ACTIONS CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY OUR DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND AN AVOIDANCE OF AN ARMS RACE AND THAT WE BELIEVE THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES. I MENTIONED THE ANOMALIES THAT EXIST BY VIRTUE OF OUR EMBARGOING ARMS SALES ONLY TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN ESPECIALLY WHEN NO OTHER COUNTRIES HAD IMPOSED SUCH AN EMBARGO AND WHEN TWO OF PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBORS WERE RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF ARMS FROM ANOTHER MAJOR POWER.

5. ABDULLAH THEN SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM THE GOA HAD WITH OUR LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS THE TIMING. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR THAT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN WAS GOING TO ACHIEVE CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS. HE SAID THAT THE INDIANS AND AFGHANS HAD AGREED THAT THE PAKS COULD USE ADDITIONAL ARMS ONLY AGAINST AFGHANISTAN.

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6. ABDULLAH CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT, AS I KNEW, THE GOA'S POSITION WAS THAT IT COVETS NO REPEAT NO PAKISTANI TERRITORY. HE SAID HE COULD GIVE ME HIS PERSONAL WORD ON HONOR THAT NO REPEAT NO GUERRILLAS ARE BEING TRAINED IN AFGHANISTAN AND SENT ACROSS THE BORDER INTO PAKISTAN BUT, HE SAID, IF BHUTTO CONTINUES TO PROVOKE US, WE WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO BE SO RESTRAINED. IN FACT, HE SAID, THE GOA MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE A TERRITORIAL CLAIM.

7. I ONCE AGAIN DEPLORED THIS KIND OF ESCALATION, SAYING THAT IT COULD HAVE INCALCULABLE RESULTS. TO THIS, ABDULLAH RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE COULD IMAGINE THAT ONLY THE SOVIET UNION COULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH AN ESCALATION.

8. COMMENT: WE HAVE CHECKED WITH THE PAK CHARGE WHO SAYS HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT ANY STOPPAGE OF TRANSIT GOODS. WE WILL REPORT ANYTHING ADDITIONAL WE LEARN IN THIS REGARD. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF TELLING ABDULLAH THAT I HOPE THAT THE AFGHANS WILL LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE SHAH'S VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS WHEN DAOUD VISITS TEHRAN THE END OF APRIL. ELIOT UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE CONTROLS, RAIL SHIPMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE079179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:TTOMKINS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750121-1145
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750470/aaaacmmy.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006